Department of Social and Health Services Olympia, Washington

ELIGIBILITY A-Z MANUAL REVISION

Revision # 187

Category / Section Certification Periods for Food Assistance

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Summary

CLARIFYING INFORMATION

The food assistance caseload increased over 10% between October 2000 and October 2001. This increase comes at a time when ESA is planning for reductions in FTEs. Currently over 50%, or 84,000 cases, of the caseload are in three-month certifications. To compensate for the increased workload, ESA must drastically change the practices that executive management had enacted in 1998 in response to the increased QC error rate.

One of the ways to accomplish this is to use existing rules to their maximum advantage. WAC 388-416-0005 allows the FSS to certify for **6 months** food assistance households that receive cash assistance, earned income, or with income, deductions or household circumstances that are not likely to change. Those households in which all members are disabled or elderly without earned income may have **12-month** certifications. **24 months** is the maximum period for households in which everyone in the AU is elderly and no one in the AU has earned income or cash assistance. All other AUs may receive food assistance for up to **3 months** at a time.

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Certification Periods Certification

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